

jazz. In the early 1960's, Dr. Taylor became the first black artist to host a daily radio show, "The Billy Taylor Show," on WNEW, a major New York station. Dr. Taylor also brought jazz back to Harlem and the surrounding communities through the revolutionary Jazzmobile project, which he co-founded with Daphne Arnstein, a fellow member of the Harlem Cultural Council. The Jazzmobile began with a float borrowed from the Budweiser Beer Company that was converted into a bandstand-on-wheels. The organization produced summer outdoor concerts, lectures and special programs for disadvantaged inner-city youth. Renowned artists such as Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton, Buddy Rich, and Milt Jackson all contributed to the Jazzmobile by performing free outdoor concerts for the public. In particular, Dr. Taylor recalled the excitement of the audience when Duke Ellington performed, saying, "I don't know who was more excited, the audience, or Duke. He loved playing for the people of Harlem, and they loved him, madly." The program continues today throughout the United States.

Billy Taylor's recording career is nothing short of extraordinary. With more than two dozen albums recorded over a span of six decades, Dr. Taylor is renowned within the recording community through such compositions as, "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to be Free" and "Peaceful Warrior," a work inspired by and dedicated to the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In 1990, Dr. Taylor was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President George H.W. Bush and also has received two Peabody Awards, an Emmy, and a Grammy.

Dr. Taylor continues to be the country's spokesman for jazz. From 1977 until 1982, Dr. Taylor hosted "Jazz Alive," National Public Radio's most listened-to jazz program of its time.

In March 1993, he was appointed Jazz Adviser to the Kennedy Center, where he was responsible for dramatically expanding and enhancing its jazz program—and although he has officially retired, Dr. Taylor is busier than ever, continuing to provide his expertise to the institution. As with Jazzmobile, Billy Taylor continues to create outreach activities and public performances to expose people of all ages to the genre of Jazz at the Kennedy Center. At the University of Massachusetts, where he is the Wilmer D. Barrett Professor of Music, Dr. Taylor leads the annual Jazz in July program.

As we prepare for the 2nd Annual Duke Ellington Festival to be held in October, it is my pleasure to recognize Dr. Billy Taylor for his lifetime achievements and contributions to the genre of jazz and to the world at large. He is not only an extraordinary artist, but also a renowned and celebrated professional who has dedicated his life to bringing music to the masses. Dr. Billy Taylor inspires the next generation of musicians to continue in his footsteps and not only excel in their musical performances, but also to motivate and educate.

THE MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act, S. 418, as passed by the Senate. The bill amends the Investment Company Act of 1940 to make it unlawful for any registered investment company to issue or sell any periodic payment plan certificate. In short, the bill will protect the members of our Armed Forces from unscrupulous practices regarding the sale of insurance as well as other financial and investment products.

Many of us have known for some time that members of our Armed Services have been preyed upon by unscrupulous individuals in the financial services arena. Members of the Armed Services are often the victims of aggressive and misleading sales practices and schemes that result in exorbitant commissions and fees for insurance products, etc. Some sales commissions are in excess of 50 percent on the first year of contributions to the insurance product. In addition, certain life insurance products are being marketed as investment products, providing minimal death benefits in exchange for excessive up-front premiums.

I believe that this bill takes a major step to close the existing loophole in the law allowing for the proliferation in the sale of these products. Mr. Speaker, it would be disgraceful if, after the sacrifices made by the men and women in our armed services, this body allowed these practices to continue. Today we should send a strong message to the people in the industry who would put profit above the well-being of our troops by passing S. 418.

The sooner we can pass this legislation and other measures to protect our service men and women from these predators the better off we will be. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5450 and applaud Representative EHLERS, Chairman BOEHLERT and the members of the House Science committee for their work on this bill. However, I am also deeply concerned with H.R. 5450. My concern, however, is not what is actually in this bill, but what is missing. Because the House Resources Committee refused to consider this important legislation, we are now debating a bill that does not include authorization for the oceanic component of NOAA.

This greatly disappoints me. As a co-chair of the bipartisan House Oceans Caucus, I have worked closely with the line offices of NOAA that handle ocean stewardship, and I

have always been amazed at the size and importance of their mission considering what little Congress gives them in the way of guidance or funds. Funding that should go to NOAA to bolster ocean research and management already pales in comparison to other natural resource programs, and now, we are about to authorize only the atmospheric component of NOAA. This is just another example of the failure of this Congress to make the management of our oceans a priority. This amazes me, considering the size and economic value of our oceans.

We have been called to make our oceans a greater priority for more than 6 years now. When are we going to act? After our fish stocks are fully depleted? After global warming have caused rising sea levels to erode our beaches and the oceans to become so acidic that coral reefs have wasted away? In 2000, with the passage of the Oceans Act, Congress called for a National Commission on Ocean Policy to conduct a nationwide fact-finding mission on the state of our oceans. The goal was to develop policy recommendations that would lead to a coordinated and comprehensive national ocean policy. The independent Pew Oceans Commission underwent a similar process to identify the root problems threatening our nations' oceans. The products of these two commissions are nothing short of remarkable. Both commissions independently came to the same clear message: our oceans are in peril.

It is NOAA that must tackle these challenges. As the lead agency on ocean management, both commissions acknowledged the size of the task that NOAA faces. Americans are facing declining fish stocks, beach closures due to poor water quality, and laws that are inadequate to protect America's oceans. Both commissions have called on Congress repeatedly to provide NOAA with an organic act. In fact, both have listed an organic act as one of the highest priorities in taking steps towards better management of our oceans.

NOAA already administers the core programs that manage our ocean resources, and again, does so under an ever tightening budget. For example, National Marine Fisheries Service manages all Federal fisheries under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management administers the Coastal Zone Management Act that protects our coasts from pollution and erosion. Congress sure likes to give NOAA a lot to do, but nothing to do it with.

Furthermore, NOAA also administers a number of completely unauthorized programs that Americans depend on. The Ocean and Atmospheric Research office played a lead role in helping institute an integrated ocean observation system based on what we already have in the Gulf of Maine. Analogous to the routine monitoring of weather and climate, ocean observation collects a myriad of temperature and current data that enhances the prediction of hurricanes and storms, the impacts of global warming, and is used by search and rescue teams and shipping fleets for navigation. Despite the multiple uses of ocean observation, the regional associations are now at risk of shutting down because as an unauthorized program, they are unable to find a sustainable funding path. It is ridiculous. In essence, this innovative program may have to shut down for being too ahead of its time.

The challenges NOAA faces are only going to increase over the next century. More than